

DEFER PTO MINUTES

Maire Elementary – 21st Century Classroom #204

February 7, 2017

Attendance: Megan Beijin, Sara Havlik, Brooke Hess, Lindy Holloway, Brooke Macuga, Sara Eaton Martin, Kelley McLean, Becca Ozar, Karen Sullivan, Emily Summerfield, Brian Summerfield, Kelly Warnick, Heather Wiegand, Kelly Woolums

Overview of 21st Century Classroom by Teacher Sarah Neely – Grade 2 Classroom:

- Ceilings, lights, paint, carpet, storage, cubbies to the side, swivel chairs attached to desks with storage underneath, green screen
- Newest version of Smart TV (no projector – therefore no shadow, no need for lights off, 8 touches), speaker connected to TV & computer w/ microphone that teacher can wear
- Moveable Easel w/ removable green tubs that charge chrome books & ipads w/ bags for hanging headphones – can hold 32
- Played Defer announcements on SmartTV
- Questions
 - o *How long did it take kids get used to the chairs?* – 1 week – not recommended for 2nd graders because they are not heavy enough to not tip the chairs
 - o *Who designed the room?* 3 pilot teachers, building tech & administrators – no architect and made their own plan, did not visit other schools as they started in the summer and were finished by Nov. This is not a prototype, but a showing of possibilities
 - o *What's your favorite thing?* – the TV but there is no remote, it can fall asleep but motion activated, the whiteboards grab the students' attention better, the lighting, bookshelves that go around the back of the room like a counter, bulletin boards all around the classrooms, storage!
- Mrs. Sullivan pointed out the importance of having a sink and noticed the color of the walls (blue & green) and nice lighting.

Call to Order & Introductions: (Becca Ozar)

Review of January Minutes: (Kelly Woolums)

- Approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Emily Summerfield)

- December & January Reports presented & approved.
- Question was asked: How many I-pads were purchased? Ordered 21 and received 9 through GPPSS grant. They should be in soon. The January report reflects the 21 ordered. The i-pads have great gumdrop cases.

Vice President Report: (Heather Wiegand)

- Heather has been reaching out to current positions – many are coming back
- Holes needed to fill: Vice President, treasurer lead, fundraiser co-chair, hospitality

Volunteers: (Brooke Macuga)

- Morning office support isn't really needed so we discontinued.
- Lunch help is okay.
- Lunchtime clinic is in need of help; people don't always show up. Suggestions were offered.

Fundraising: (Kelly Warnick)

2017 Fun Run Date – October 6th

Mrs. Sullivan said that she would put the weekly themes for fundraising goals for the teacher's meeting

Box Tops Contest is halfway done.

Membership: (Lindy Holloway)

Directories – Mike called about the new agreement for AtoZ Directories – all is free – they must make their money off of the sponsors. Lindy will move forward to sign contract.

New T-Shirts in and delivered. Do we want to start talking about next order? (Green for K, 10 of each color, tie-dye for young 5s, magnet additions)\$7 for T-shirts \$10 for tie-dye – amount may go down with bulk order) Mrs. Sullivan will get numbers. New budget starts in July. We will wait for new budget. Need new young 5s T-shirts.

Hospitality: (Kim Rhodes)

- No report.

Communications: (Sara Eaton Martin)

- No report.

School Board Observer: (Kelley McLean)

- Elected new officers. Mr. Summerfield is now president.

Teacher's Report: (Janette High)

- No report.

Principal's Report: (Karen Sullivan)

1. Guinn was our presenter and he provided three assemblies (K,1st) (2nd and 3rd), (4th and 5th). His consistent message for all grades was:
 - Get parent permission to use the internet
 - Never talk to a stranger on the internet
 - Go to places on the internet that your parents say are ok
 - Never share name, address, phone number, or pictureOther topics with 4th and 5th included:
 - Leaving a digital footprint
 - Internet predators
 - Cyber bullying
2. All Defer staff are in the process of completing Instructional Rounds. Our lower grades visited a Kindergarten teacher at Trombly to learn more about Lexia, a reading intervention program. Other instructional rounds both in and out of building have included: math workshop, writing workshop, Science instruction using the new standards, collaboration between Speech and Reading Support teacher in Kindergarten, etc.

3. Magnet Visit – Today a group for Avondale Public Schools visited our magnet program. They worked with us a year ago on the identification process in magnet and today they spent time visiting the two classrooms, meeting with me, and meeting with our school social worker.
4. Lunch Enrichment is up and running and the students are really enjoying it. There are classes for all grade levels. Some choices include: cooking, legos, coding, coloring, crafts, gardening, computers, engineering, knitting, chess, and more. 254 students or 80% of our students are taking a class.
5. PBIS – Our last Reward Party was a STEM activity (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The idea was to create the longest chain possible using one 18” by 11” sheet of paper. The lower grades made this a class challenge and created huge chains while the upper grades competed as teams of two for length.
6. Our January Town Hall recognized our Service and Safety leaders, perfect homework completion for the month, and one Shining Star from each classroom. These meetings are completely student run. Our Dragon Den followed the Town Hall and the focus was on *Equal is not always Fair*. Students were given a card with an ailment and no matter what the ailment was we applied a band aid. Our discussion was that everyone needs something different and what we do may not be the same for each person but it is always fair – it is what is needed.
7. The Diversity group held their most recent meeting here at Defer last week. There 50 – 60 people in attendance. Two Central Office administrators presented a draft of the district diversity plan. After that there was an hour for question and answers and general sharing. There was great input gathered from this meeting for our diversity work. Our Superintendent was present and was able to gather input as well.
8. Last Friday was a Professional Development day for elementary. In the morning we focused on the Next Generation Science standards which are new and in the afternoon our work focused on Reading and Writing instruction.
9. We are working right now with the Pierce counselors and administrators on our 5th grade transition. Our students have gotten over to Pierce for a general introduction, students and families are working on class selection right now. The 5th grade teachers will continue to work with the counselors and our students will make another visit in which they have lunch at Pierce.
10. Kindergarten Information Night was very well attended. We had 35 families come and since there is a set of twins – 36 students. Many had already registered. Questions over deciding between Young 5 and Kindergarten was a focus of the discussion.
11. Enrollment continues to grow. Since our last meeting we have gained a Young 5 student, a first grade student, and two third grade students. We are presently at 318 students.
12. Staff news – Katy Forcillo has returned from her medical leave. Cheryl Lapensee will not be returning this school year. Many of you know that she is dealing with breast cancer and I ask that you keep her in your thoughts. Brandon Balicki has been hired to complete the school year. Mrs. Bergeron is having intensive therapy on her arm presently and we are hopeful that she will be allowed to return to her classroom after her next doctor visit on March 9th.
13. PTO purchases – The playscape is wonderful! It is providing another opportunity for our youngest learners. We have ordered the 21 iPads for grades K, 1, and 2 and expect them to arrive shortly. The PTO was refunded for the Storia app purchased for the upper grades. It was lacking in resources and the staff did not feel it was a useful tool.
14. Finally, the entire Defer staff share in saying ‘thank you’. I can’t tell you how honored we are by the treats you have been sending in each week. It is hard to measure such a thing but I would tell you that Tuesday is our favorite day of the week!

President's Report: (Becca Ozar)

- Becca met with other presidents. Technology seems to be a sore spot with other schools.
- Request that teacher's share what they
- Becca attended the diversity meeting. Highly recommends that people attend the March meeting at Pierce. Interesting to see that elementary schools seem to be able to address these issues more readily; the task is to see how to bring support to middle & high school students.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- a) Bingo Night: Becca & Heather met with Renee Palazola. The Date is March 24th 7:00-9:00 Bingo Night. We need some new prizes. Announcements for the week. Donations needed. Approx. 30 prizes needed. Scholastic Dollars can be used for prizes. The 50/50 drawing needs a license and takes 3 weeks to come. Keep 50 and 50 goes to student council. Emily suggested that everyone bring something to the next meeting. Advertise on Facebook. We will tally at the next meeting. Children and siblings play free. Parents play for \$1. Sell pizza, popcorn, drinks. \$1 for dabbers. Contact NJHS to help out. Suggestion to put food in the hallway. Fun event and it tends to be crowded.
- b) Book Fair: March 27th week. Regular hours during library. Open sometime during conferences. Convert Scholastic dollars to PTO funds.
- c) Disability Awareness Workshop: need more morning volunteers

Member Comment:

- Reminder: Donuts with Dragon – March 10th
- Green Team: Defer turned in their report and earned Evergreen Status
- Volunteers: How do we plug for new volunteers. Maybe add advertising at new orientation, volunteer tea, back to school night seems so full/busy, registration descriptions can be revisited

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25PM

Minutes Submitted by Kelly Woolums, February 8, 2017